

CLAIMS

1-7. *(canceled)*

1 8. *(currently amended)* A method comprising the steps of:
2 introducing sample liquid into a reaction cell having a
3 hybridization probe array so that some interior volume is partially
4 occupied by sample liquid and partially occupied by gas;
5 centrifuging said sample liquid by rotating said reaction cell
6 about a centrifugation axis so that centrifugal force in excess of 1G
7 urges said sample liquid against said array; and
8 agitating said sample liquid in said reaction cell during said
9 centrifuging by rotating said reaction cell about an agitation axis
10 distinct from said centrifugation axis that is more orthogonal to
11 than along said centrifugal force so that said sample liquid moves
12 relative to said array.

9. *(canceled)*

1 10. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 8
2 wherein said agitating involves periodically changing the direction
3 of rotation about said agitation axis so as to define an agitation
4 cycle rate.

1 11. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 10
2 wherein said centrifuging involves rotating said reaction cell during
3 said agitating at a centrifuge rate greater than said agitation rate.

12. *(canceled)*

13. *(canceled)*

1 14. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 8
2 further comprising a step of removing sample liquid from said
3 reaction cell, said removing step involving rotating said reaction cell
4 about said agitation axis so that said centrifugal force urges said
5 fluid in said reaction cell away from said array.

1 15. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 8
2 wherein said sample liquid occupies at most half of said interior
3 volume during said centrifuging and agitating.

16-25. *(canceled)*